**A team--and a family--of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary--and extraordinary!**

**Reed Richards' former love, Alyssa Castle (nee Moy) re-enters his life to bring him to Nu-World, a project she and her husband have developed for the nations of the world--an exact replica of the Planet Earth to be inhabited when our world dies. But a freak accident releases Nu-World's sole protector, C.A.P. (Conserve And Protect) on a path of death and destruction. After defying scientific impossibility and defeating Nu-World's resident protector, Reed Richards finally puts the long-held affections of his former love, Alyssa Castle behind him. Regrouping, Reed and Sue enjoy a lovely anniversary dinner (using Reed's time travel device to go back to the day of their first meeting), while Johnny continues his illicit affair with the super-villain Psionics. All seems well until a sudden shockwave is sent through the Baxter Building...and Doctor Doom appears, demanding to see Reed Richards!**

# DEATH OF THE INVISIBLE WOMAN PART 1: THE NEW DEFENDERS

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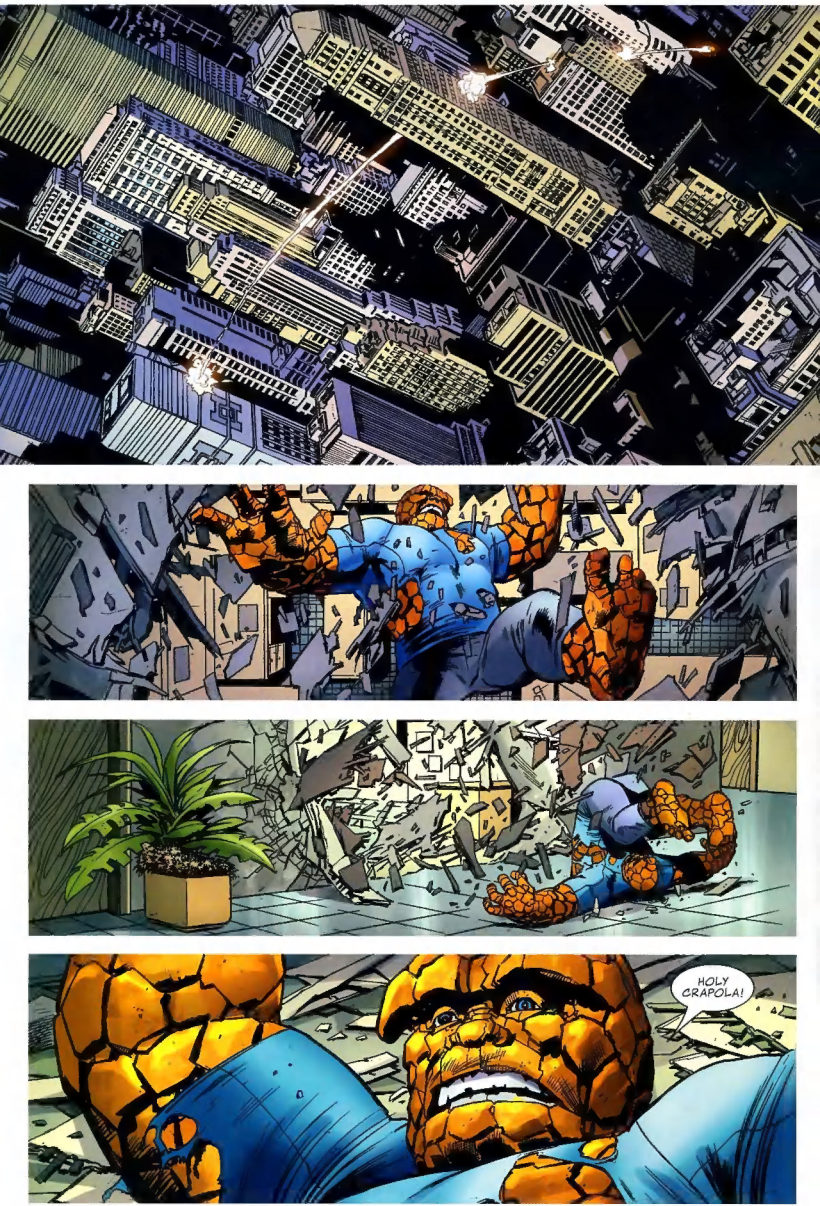
THE BAXTER BUILDING:
LOCATE REED RICHARDS!
DOOM DEMANDS THAT YOU SUMMON HIM!

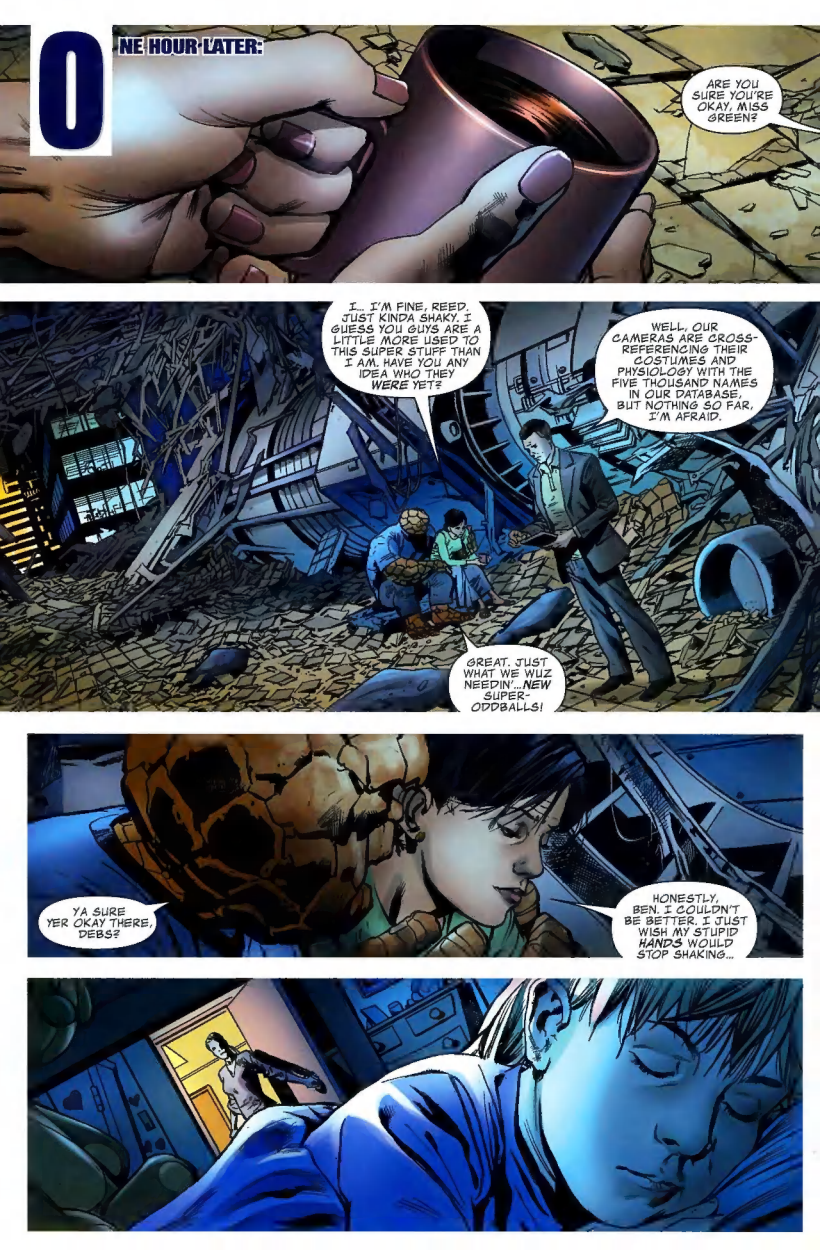
BEN, WHAT DO WE DO?
GRAB THE KIDS AND GET OUTTA HERE, DEBS! HE MIGHT BE HURTIN', BUT HE'S STILL DOC DOOM! FER ALL WE KNOW THIS IS SOME KINDA TRICK!
GRIMM, YOU IMBECILE. IF I WANTED YOU DEAD, I'D HAVE KILLED YOU ALREADY. NOW DO AS I SAY OR WE'RE FINISHED.
TOO LATE, DOCTOR. WE'RE ALREADY HERE.
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR FIVE-STAR HEADACHE, VICTOR? I'M GIVING YOU EVERY NIGHTMARE YOU'VE EVER HAD PLAYING SIMULTANEOUSLY.
GEEZ LOUISE!

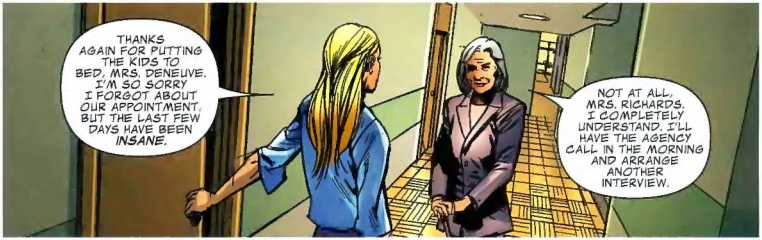
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M SAYIN' THIS... BUT LEAVE TH' DOC ALONE, YA BUMS!
RIGHT. WHATEVER YOU SAY.
IDIOT.
FRANKLIN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE NEED TO GET TO THE PANIC ROOM. C'MON. WE'LL SHOW YOU WHERE TO GO. DAD MAKES US DO THE VILLAIN DRILL EVERY SATURDAY MORNING.

ALRIGHT, CHUCKLES. PLAYTIME'S OVER...
...IT'S TIME TA EAT SOME GIZMO-SANDWICH!
HUH?
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO, "ROCK-MAN" OR "BRICK MAN" OR WHATEVER THE HELL YOU CALL YOURSELF?
OUR TURN.


HOLY CRAPOLA!

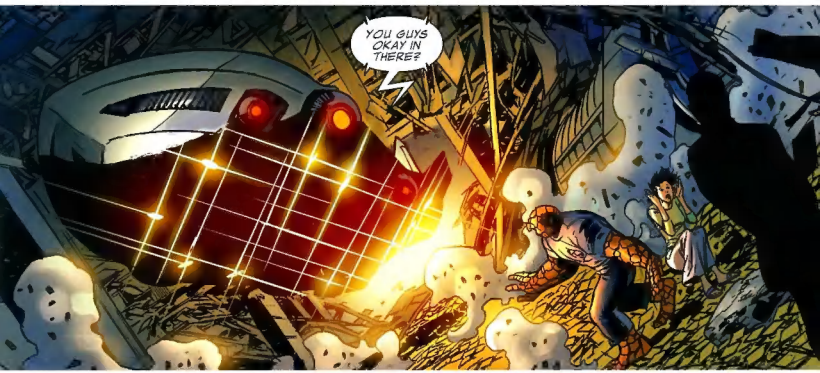
I'VE AMPED UP THE NIGHTMARES, ALEX, AND BLINDED HIM TOO. JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE.
COOL.
WE NEED TO GET HIM BACK TO BASE. THE DOCTOR'S GOING TO BE FURIOUS HE GOT AWAY FROM US.
JUST A SECOND...
IT'S OKAY, BOYS AND GIRLS. THE BAD PEOPLE ARE GOING AWAY NOW.

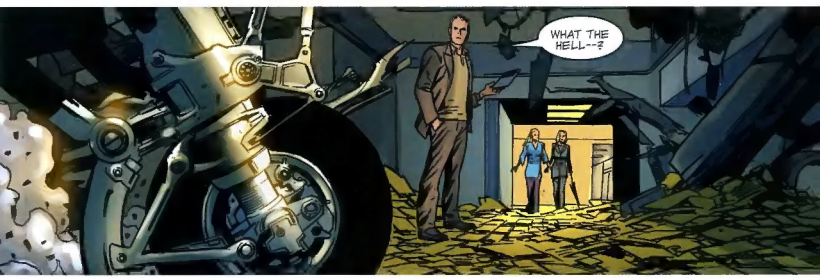

ONE HOUR LATER:
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY, MISS GREEN?
I... I'M FINE, REED. JUST KINDA SHAKY. I GUESS YOU GUYS ARE A LITTLE MORE USED TO THIS SUPER STUFF THAN I AM. HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHO THEY *WERE* YET?
WELL, OUR CAMERAS ARE CROSS-REFERENCING THEIR COSTUMES AND PHYSIOLOGY WITH THE FIVE THOUSAND NAMES IN OUR DATABASE, BUT NOTHING SO FAR, I'M AFRAID.
GREAT. JUST WHAT WE WUZ NEEDIN'. ***NEW*** SUPER-ODDBALLS!
YA SURE YER OKAY THERE, DEBS?
HONESTLY, BEN, I COULDN'T BE BETTER. I JUST WISH MY STUPID ***HANDS*** WOULD STOP SHAKING...


THANKS AGAIN FOR PUTTING THE KIDS TO BED, MRS. DENEUVE. I'M SO SORRY I FORGOT ABOUT OUR APPOINTMENT, BUT THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN INSANE.
NOT AT ALL, MRS. RICHARDS. I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND. I'LL HAVE THE AGENCY CALL IN THE MORNING AND ARRANGE ANOTHER INTERVIEW.

DON'T BE SILLY. THE JOB'S YOURS IF YOU WANT IT.
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY GREAT WITH FRANKLIN AND VALERIA AND YOU'VE MORE THAN PROVEN YOURSELF.
WELL, I HAVE TO SAY I'M ENORMOUSLY FLATTERED...

THANK YOU, MRS. RICHARDS. THIS MEANS MORE TO ME THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW.


YOU GUYS OKAY IN THERE?


WHAT THE HELL--?

HEY! WHAT'S TH' BIG IDEA, WASPIE? YA TRYIN' TA PUT MY GIRL INTA CARDIAC ARREST?
SORRY, BEN. SHE-HULK AND I WERE COMING OVER FOR OUR FRIENDS OF MISS AMERICA MEETING AND SAW THE HOLE IN THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING. IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

I'LL JUST BE A COUPLE OF MINUTES, GUYS. HELP YOURSELVES TO COFFEE AND A SANDWICH.

I'M SORRY, BABY. THINGS AIN'T USUALLY THIS NUTS. OR MAYBE THEY ARE AN' I JUST AIN'T NOTICED...
IT'S OKAY. I NEED TO GET HOME ANYWAY. SCHOOL IN THE MORNING AND IT'S ALREADY AFTER MIDNIGHT.

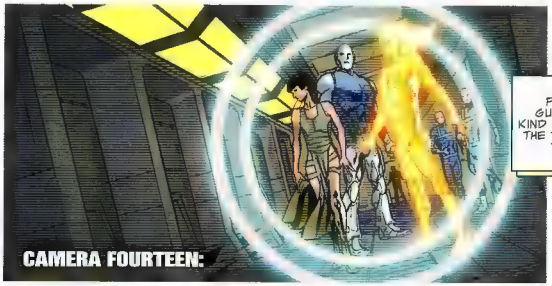
YA WANT ME TA GIVE YOU A RIDE IN TH' FANTASTI-CAR?
THANKS, BUT I THINK I'VE HAD ENOUGH EXCITEMENT FOR ONE DAY. I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW, OKAY?

AW, NUTS! IF VIC VON DOOM JUST COST ME A GIRLFRIEND I SWEAR I'M GONNA CHOKE TH' BUM!

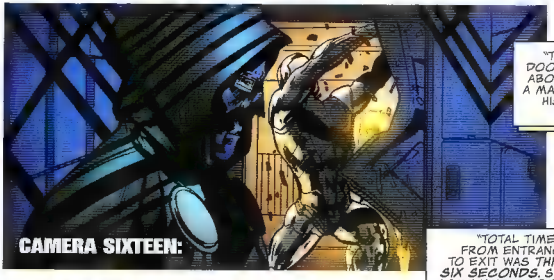
THANK YOU.

WELL, IT'S ABOUT DAMN TIME.

I WAS WONDERING HOW LONG YOU WERE GOING TO SPEND WITH THAT FREAK.


CAMERA FOURTEEN:
"AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE VIDEO, THESE GUYS WERE WEARING SOME KIND OF TECH THAT NEUTRALIZED THE TRIP-BEAMS AND ALLOWED THEM TO WALTZ INSIDE WITH MINIMUM FUSS.

CAMERA THREE:
"THE LITTLE GIRL IS DOING SOMETHING TO THE GUARDS OVER THERE AND WE'RE ASSUMING SHE USED THIS SAME TALENT TO MAJEFY THE MIND OF THE PRISONER WHEN THEY REACHED HIM.


CAMERA SIXTEEN:
"THIS IS DOCTOR DOOM WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...NOT EXACTLY A MAN RENOWNED FOR HIS EASY-GOING NATURE.

"TOTAL TIME FROM ENTRANCE TO EXIT WAS THIRTY-SIX SECONDS. SURELY SOME KIND OF RECORD FOR A HIGH-PROFILE JAIL-BREAK?"
CAMERA EIGHT:
YOUR SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE SAID EIGHT FIFTY-NINE, BUT DOOM DIDN'T REACH THE BAXTER BUILDING UNTIL NINE SEVENTEEN. CAN ANYONE ACCOUNT FOR THE MISSING TIME?

THE RAFT, RYKER'S ISLAND, WHERE DOCTOR DOOM WAS BEING HELD PENDING TRIAL*.
SURE. STREET CAMERAS PICKED UP A MAJOR BRAWL ACROSS MIDTOWN, DOCTOR RICHARDS. IT SEEMS HE ESCAPED IN THE HOPE OF FINDING YOU.
WHICH ONLY ILLUSTRATES HOW DESPERATE HE WAS.
EXACTLY. WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE COULD SUBDUE DOCTOR DOOM AND WHY HAVEN'T WE HEARD OF THEM? SOMETHING ABOUT THIS DOESN'T ADD UP.
POOR VICTOR. HE'S GOING TO BE SEETHING WHEN HE FINDS OUT WHY HE WAS KIDNAPPED BY THE NEW DEFENDERS. IT MUST BE SO HUMILIATING FOR A MAN OF HIS STATURE.
*SEE MIGHTY AVENGERS #11 - TOM

EXCUSE ME?
GENTLEMEN, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MARVIN FLUMM. HE WAS A S.H.I.E.L.D. PSYCHIC WHO WENT ROGUE A WHILE BACK AND CALLS HIMSELF MENTALLO NOW.
HE SAID HE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED AND IT ALL CAME TO HIM IN A DREAM.

IS THIS TRUE?
OH, I KNOW EVERYTHING, SIR... WHY THEY'RE BUILDING THEIR BASE IN THE HILLS AND WHAT THEY'RE PLANNING TO DO WITH IT. I EVEN KNOW WHO THE HOODED MAN IS.
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM YET? HE'S A WONDER TO BEHOLD, I PROMISE YOU.
MENTALLO, PLEASE. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAY GAMES HERE. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE PEOPLE AND WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH VICTOR?
ANSWERING THAT WOULD BE MOST UNETHICAL. ISN'T THAT LIKE ASKING ME NEXT WEEK'S LOTTERY NUMBERS?
MY ONLY CLUE IS THAT OLD FRIENDS ARE AT WORK ON THIS NOBLE ENDEAVOR AND THE LEADER OF THIS GROUP IS A VERY OLD FRIEND INDEED.

JOHNNY'S BAND IN REHEARSAL:
HEY, BABE. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
MY BOSS WAS SICK SO I GOT AWAY EARLY. YOU SEEN THE PAPERS YET, JOHNNY?
UGH! DON'T REMIND ME. ALL REED'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT IS DOCTOR DOOM AND THIS KIDNAPPING THING.
THE GUY TRIES TO KILL US EVERY OTHER WEEK SO PARDON ME FOR NOT EXACTLY GOING TO PIECES.
NO, SILLY. I MEANT PAGE ELEVEN AND THIS STRING OF ARMED ROBBERIES.
OH, CINDY. YOU DIDN'T.
STOLEN
THREE BANKS IN A SINGLE NIGHT. BUT I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THIS PICTURE IN THE PB. DO YOU THINK I LOOK FAT HERE OR IS IT JUST THE WAY MY COSTUME'S FOLDING?
LISTEN, BABE. WE NEED TO TALK.

YOUR PLACE OR MINE?
NO, SERIOUSLY. WE NEED TO ACTUALLY TALK.

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE YOU, BECAUSE I DO. YOU'RE HOT AND YOU'RE FUNNY AND YOU'RE A MONSTER IN THE BOUDOIR.
BUT THIS WHOLE EVIL SUPER-VILLAIN THING REALLY PUTS ME IN AN AWKWARD SITUATION.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, JOHNNY? WORRIED THEY'LL CAN YOUR RECORDING CONTRACT?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT. WELL, IT'S A LITTLE OF THAT... BUT THE MAIN THING IS I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A SUPER HERO. ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS...

I KNOW I'M NOT EXACTLY CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUT DOING WHAT I DO REALLY MEANS A LOT TO ME, AND TURNING A BLIND-EYE TO ALL THESE BANKS YOU KEEP ROBBING...
WELL, IT'S JUST NOT COOL.

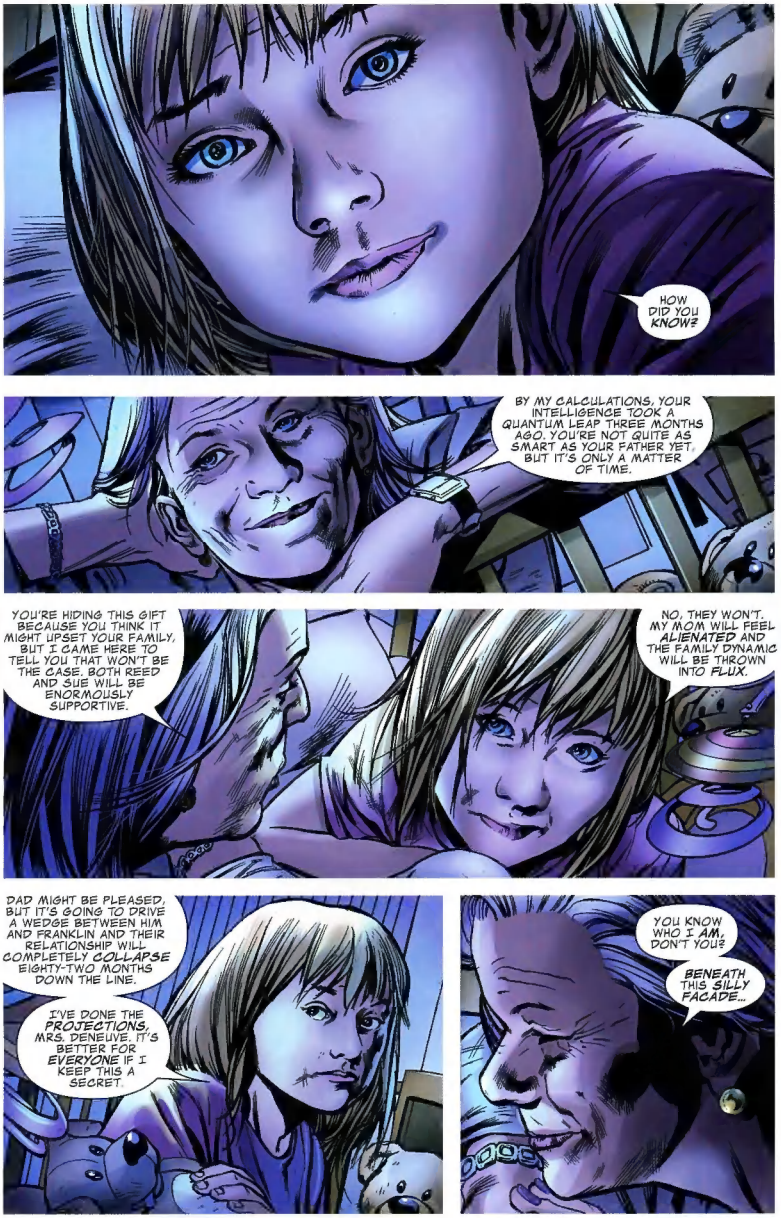
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? TOSS ME IN JAIL NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN?
NO, OF COURSE NOT. ALL I'M SAYING IS MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T SEE EACH OTHER ANYMORE...AND MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK ABOUT STOPPING BEFORE YOU DO END UP IN JAIL.

LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING: HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY I NEED THIS CASH? HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED TO CONSIDER WHAT I'M ACTUALLY FUNDING HERE?
UH, I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW. IS THIS A DRUG THING?

NO, JOHNNY. THIS IS NOT A DRUG THING... AND, BEFORE YOU ASK, IT'S NOT FOR SHOPPING TRIPS EITHER. GOD, MY DAD WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID YOU WERE A TOTAL IDIOT...
WAIT. WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

CINDY, COME BACK!

THE BAXTER BUILDING:
NO, MRS. DENEUVE'S AMAZING. HER REFERENCES WERE IMPECCABLE AND THE KIDS JUST ADORE HER. AFTER ALL THE BAD LUCK WE'VE HAD LATELY SHE'S JUST WHAT WE NEEDED.
NOW HOW DID IT GO WITH TONY STARK? DID HE AGREE TO RELEASE THAT OLD BROWNSTONE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR APARTMENTS IN THE HULK ATTACK?
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF, VALERIA. YOUR FATHER'S OUT LOOKING FOR DOCTOR DOOM AND YOUR MOTHER'S UPSTAIRS WORKING FOR THAT CHARITY SHE CREATED.
FRANKLIN'S ASLEEP AND I'VE SWITCHED OFF THE BABY MONITOR. WE CAN TALK AS FREELY AS YOU LIKE.


HOW DID YOU KNOW?
BY MY CALCULATIONS, YOUR INTELLIGENCE TOOK A QUANTUM LEAP THREE MONTHS AGO. YOU'RE NOT QUITE AS SMART AS YOUR FATHER YET, BUT IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.
YOU'RE HIDING THIS GIFT BECAUSE YOU THINK IT MIGHT UPSET YOUR FAMILY, BUT I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT WON'T BE THE CASE. BOTH REED AND SUE WILL BE ENORMOUSLY SUPPORTIVE.
NO, THEY WON'T. MY MOM WILL FEEL ALIENATED AND THE FAMILY DYNAMIC WILL BE THROWN INTO FLUX.
DAD MIGHT BE PLEASED, BUT IT'S GOING TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN HIM AND FRANKLIN AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WILL COMPLETELY COLLAPSE EIGHTY-TWO MONTHS DOWN THE LINE.
I'VE DONE THE PROJECTIONS, MRS. DENELIVE. IT'S BETTER FOR EVERYONE IF I KEEP THIS A SECRET.
YOU KNOW WHO I AM, DON'T YOU?
BENEATH THIS SILLY FACADE...

THE DEFENDERS' SECRET BASE:

HEY, HONEY. ALEX TOLD ME YOU GOT DUMPED BY THE TORCH. BUMMER, HUH?
IT'S OKAY, DAD. I'M COOL WITH IT. I MEAN, IF HE COULDN'T HANDLE A FEW LITTLE ROBBERIES HE WASN'T GOING TO LIKE WHERE THE MONEY WAS GOING ANYWAY.

TELL HIM SECRET BASES DON'T COME CHEAP.
DON'T YOU THINK IT WAS A LITTLE IRRESPONSIBLE HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH JOHNNY STORM? YOU COULD HAVE COMPROMISED THE ENTIRE MISSION, CINDY.
I DIDN'T PLAN TO MAKE OUT WITH HIM, NATALIE. IT JUST KIND OF HAPPENED. MAYBE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU GET YOUR FIRST BRA.
EASY, GIRLS. THE WORK WE'RE DOING HERE WOULDN'T FIT IN JOHNNY'S HEAD. NOTHING'S BEEN COMPROMISED. RIGHT, DOCTOR BANNER?
RIGHT.

# NEXT ISSUE